

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-05

IGA-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /045 W

----- 117973

R 120420Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5775

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ROME

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ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, BG

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH: RECOMMENDED TIMING OF US FY 75 FOOD AID

REF: A. DACCA 5847 B. STATE 029382 C. DACCA 0761

1. WITH THE LATEST US ALLOCATION OF 350,000 MT, BANGLADESH AUTHORITIES HAVE NOW RPT NOW "MOBILIZED" THEIR FY 75 FOODGRAIN IMPORT REQUIREMENTS OF 2.3 MILLION METRIC TONS (MMT) (REFTELS B AND C), EXCLUDING STOCK BUILDUP. THE US IS SUPPLYING ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THIS TOTAL UNDER PL-480 TITLE I.

2. THE BDG MEMORANDUM ON FOODGRAIN IMPORT REQUIREMENTS (REFTEL C) NOTES THAT 1.16 MMT WERE RECEIVED FROM JULY 1974 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 1975, AND SPECIFICALLY REQUESTS DONORS TO HELP ENSURE THE ARRIVAL OF A TOTAL OF 1.1 ADDITIONAL MMT DURING JANUARY - JUNE, 1975 OF WHICH 600,000 MT IS ALREADY SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE. THESE 600,000 MT OF WHEAT, RICE AND WHEAT FLOUR ARE SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

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MONTH	AMOUNT
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FEBRUARY, 1975	142,500
MARCH	95,980
APRIL	195,000
MAY	113,000
JUNE	56,000
TOTAL	602,480

3. BDG FOODGRAIN STOCKS AT JANUARY 1, 1975 WERE 174,000 MT (REFTEL C) AND WE ESTIMATE THAT THE STOCK POSITION REMAINS AT LEAST AT THAT LEVEL, SAY 175,000 MT MINIMUM, AT FEBRUARY 1, 1975. THUS AGAINST OUR ESTIMATE OF 900,000 MT REQUIRED FOR THE SECOND HALF OF FY 75 (REFTEL A), THE BDG HAS 175,000 ON HAND, 600,000 EN ROUTE, AND 225,000 TO 275,000 COMMITTED IN PAST WEEK BY EEC, UK AND SWEDISH DONORS OR PURCHASED COMMERCIALY FOR THE FINAL FIVE MONTHS OF THE PERIOD. FURTHER DONATIONS AND/OR COMMERCIAL PURCHASES (E.G. AUSTRALIAN 300,000 MT) REMAIN POSSIBLE. THIS TOTAL OF AT LEAST 1.0 MMT, GIVEN "NORMAL" WEATHER CONDITIONS, SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE AGAINST ANY SERIOUS STARVATION SITUATION AMONG RURAL AND URBAN DESTITUTE FOR THE NEXT FIVE MONTHS, PROVIDED BDG INCREASES RELIEF CATEGORY FOR THE DESTITUTE AS NEEDED.

4. ACCORDINGLY, WE AGAIN RECOMMEND (AS IN REFTEL A), THAT THE US PROGRAM THE FINAL FY 75 ALLOCATION OF 350,000 MT (REFTEL B) TO ARRIVE IN JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER OF 1975. OUR REASONS ARE:

(A) SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER ARE ANNUALLY THE LEAN AND CRITICAL MONTHS IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE AS THE 1974 EXPERIENCE AMPLY DEMONSTRATED;

(B) SHIPMENTS REACHGRG CHITTAGONG IN JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER ARE AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION UP-COUNTRY ONLY THIRTY OR MORE DAYS LATER;
AND

(C) THERE ARE NO RPT NO SHIPMENTS NOW RPT NOW SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE DURING THE JULY-SEPTEMBER QUARTER.

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THUS, TO EJURE CONTINUITY OF FOODGRAIN ARRIVALS, TO AVOID OUR EXPERIENCE LAST FALL OF FRUITLESSLY SEARCHING SEAS FOR US GRAIN CARGOES WHICH COULD BE DIVERTED, AND ABOVE ALL, TO MAKE MAXIMUM IMPACT AT PERIOD OF GREATEST NEED, THE BALANCE OF US FY 75 PL-480 ALLOCATIONS SHOULD BE PROGRAMMED TO REACH BANGLADESH DURING FIRST QUARTER OF FY 76.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, FOOD SHORTAGE, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DACCA00800
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750050-0572
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750251/aaaabtpe.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 DACCA 5847, 75 STATE 029382, 75 DACCA 0761
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BANGLADESH: RECOMMENDED TIMING OF US FY 75 FOOD AID
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, BG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006